RESOLUTIONS

ON

CLERGY RESERVES AND RECTORIES.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, assembled in Toronto, on the 16th of June, 1852, adopted the following Resolutions, on the CLERGY RESERVES AND RECTORIES:—

Resolved, 1. That, whereas a certain Member of the British Government, holding an office closely connected with this Province, is reported to have stated, that the Established Church of England is also the Established Church of the Colonies, this Synod takes this opportunity of publicly dissenting from said statement, and of declaring that, in the Colonies of Great Britain, no Church has ever been recognized, by law, as the Established Church: that, on the contrary, attempts to give exclusive privileges to the Church of England, or to any *other sect*, have been found injurious to the connexion between them and the Mother Country, and would, in the opinion of this Court, be followed by a similar result in Canada; and that, as they believe a Parliamentary Church to be without foundation in the Word of God, and essentially different from the Church of Jesus Christ, they are persuaded that any endeavour, on the part of the British Government, to thrust such a Church on this Province, would be destructive to the interests of true religion, as well as to the peace and temporal prosperity of this country.

2. That, this Synod admits, with regret, that in the Clergy Reserve Lands and the Rectories, there are some of the elements of an Established Church amongst us,—but takes this opportunity, also, of declaring them to be contrary to the principles of the Word of God, and of this Church, and the general wishes of the people of this country; and that it is still our determination to prosecute every lawful means to have them abolished.

3. That, this Synod begs to call the attention of the congregations under its care, to the Resolutions adopted at last stated Meeting of Synod, and requests them to carry them out in a spirit of Christian wisdom, and a firm determination to maintain the principles of this Church.

4. That, as the settlement of the Clergy Reserves, by the Act of 1840, has proved unsatisfatory to those who have pecuniary interest in them, as well as to all others, this Synod is of opinion that said Act ought to be repealed, and the whole question left to the disposal of the Legislature of this Province; and the Synod takes this method of calling the attention of the Ministers and Members of this Church to this important subject.